



LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

1575 Baechtel Rd. Willits, California 95490
(707)459-6271

Chris Wilkes
Fire Chief

MINUTES July 13th, 2021

- OPENING:** The regular meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors was called to order by Tony Madrigal at 5:01 PM.
- ROLL CALL:** Present: Arnie Mello, Skip Lucier, Tom Herman, and Nancy Stipe.
Absent: Tony Madrigal
- MINUTES:** Motion to accept the June meeting minutes: Tom Herman 1st; Nancy Stipe 2nd.
- TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chief Wilkes reported the Treasurer's Report reflects unfunded liability payments in the PERS Retirement fund. In addition, we made a payment towards our FASIS contribution out of Compensation Insurance; The district paid out the office furniture deposit in the Office fund, and the district paid out a firehouse payment this month in Structures and Improvements. Appendix A and Appendix B do not have any significant changes.
- CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None
- OLD BUSINESS:** **FIREHOUSE:** Chief Wilkes gave kudos to the newspaper for a good article written on June 3, 2021. Chief Wilkes did state there was a typo with the amount of the Firehouse. The article stated the Firehouse had a 9 million dollar price tag. Chief Wilkes said the Firehouse was never 9 million and at the time decided to let it go. Recently a "social media" group has been upset over the 9 million dollar price tag. Instead of calling and getting the facts, social media users have taken to social media for their displeasure; therefore, Chief Wilkes stated this was an excellent opportunity to clear some points up. Chief Wilkes said the firehouse budget is doing very well and is not over budget. Chief Wilkes also stated that he is happy the community passed the firehouse measure as it would be unaffordable to build a firehouse at this time. The Press Democrat newspaper reported a 10,763 sq. ft. new Firehouse in the Sonoma County



LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



1575 Baechtel Rd. Willits, California 95490
(707)459-6271

Chris Wilkes
Fire Chief

Minutes July 13th, 2021
Page 2

area is approximately ten million, not including soft costs. Therefore the building, in the end, may cost upwards of 15 million. Station 54 Firehouse costs 5.6 million, and with additional soft cost will cost 7.2 million at most. The price of Station 54 includes cost recovery way back to the original architect in 2013 and demolition of the old Firehouse, AT&T, PG&E, and CEQA, all before the new Firehouse broke ground. Chief Wilkes stated we are well within budget. Chief Wilkes also said donated funds allowed us to purchase kitchen equipment, and a USDA matching grant was awarded for the additional equipment needed. Chief Wilkes said he is happy the community passed the Firehouse when they did, as it has saved a tremendous amount of money. The change orders for the new Firehouse currently sit at about 1% of our project. The district has chosen to make changes that do not reflect the project manager's percentage. With the district change order selected, we are at 1.8%. Chief Wilkes acknowledged an excellent set of plans, the architect, and the construction manager for keeping the change orders limited. Chief Wilkes is hoping to pay off the debt a year or two sooner than anticipated. Chief Wilkes wanted to remind the board and public that the district has to follow DIR rules and is entirely transparent, and the budget is always available. Chief Wilkes also stated that Facebook is not where to get answers and would like the public to call the office with questions. Chief Wilkes also said there were concerns about the "gymnasium." The district has not purchased any equipment, and the fitness room is no extra expense to the taxpayers. Chief Wilkes reported that the new Firehouse's plumbing, sheetrock, and concrete should be completed this week. PG&E has been a hang-up with the Firehouse for power, and they are supposed to come out on July 22, 2021, to hook up power. Chief Wilkes said the cabinets cannot go in until the power is hooked up as the cabinets need to be installed in a climate-controlled environment. Skip Lucier stated that he also read the 9 million price tag in the paper and that the amount is incorrect. Skip Lucier also noted that the public needs to be aware that the chosen metal building was less expensive to save money; bids were competitive due to COVID. We also have a project manager that has saved the community money. Chief Wilkes stated he is very proud, and the public can come in or call to ask questions.



LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

1575 Baechtel Rd. Willits, California 95490
(707)459-6271

Chris Wilkes
Fire Chief

Minutes June 8th, 2021
Page 3

NEW ENGINE E5469: Chief Wilkes reported there are no updates. Staff is still working on USDA Grant paperwork.

NEXUS STUDY: Chief Wilkes is hoping to be on the County of Mendocino agenda soon. The Nexus Study was supposed to be on a recent county agenda, but the county forgot to post it; therefore had to be postponed. On July 26th, 2021, the Nexus Study will be in effect in the city.

GRAND OPENING, RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY AND FUNDRAISER: Chief Wilkes informed the board the local groups are still working on the 9/11 ceremony and open house. Chief Wilkes is grateful of our community and local groups for making this happen.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

BILLS: Motion to pay bills: Tom Herman 1st; Nancy Stipe 2nd.

TRAINING REPORT: Training Chief Eric Alvarez reported the last drill night was at 541 working on ladders with Chief Magann as the instructor. Ventilation and chainsaw safety was also covered. EMT class was cancelled due to the Broiler Fire and wildland training is still continuous. Training Chief Alvarez also said he held a fire extinguisher training class at Northbrook Nursing Home and Narcan training for Willits Police Department.

FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOC. REPORT: Association President Aaron Branscomb reported the association will not be holding their big fundraiser this year. The association will be offering hats and T-shirts at the Grand Opening instead. Association President Aaron Branscomb recognized and thanked Chad Leshar and Tim Caldwell for their time at Hometown Celebration offering rides on the Muster Truck.



LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

1575 Baechtel Rd. Willits, California 95490
(707)459-6271

Chris Wilkes
Fire Chief

Minutes July 13th, 2021
Page 4

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Wilkes reported there were 60 calls in June and 11 happened in one weekend. Chief Wilkes commended the volunteers for their response. Chief Wilkes said the recent Broiler Fire was 80 acres, 4 structures and some outbuildings burned. CALFIRE is not paying for resources as this is a LRA fire. The district will pay our firefighters as they took time off work to help with this fire. Engine 5468 and Ridgewood Ranch were on structure duty. The engines made a save on a structure when the fire started burning the side of the house. Chief Wilkes gave kudos to the firefighters and were proud of their efforts. Chief Wilkes commended Training Chief Eric Alvarez for the training received by the firefighters for situations like this.

Regular meeting adjourned: Tom Herman 1st; Nancy Stipe 2nd. 5:33PM

Tony Madrigal, President

Michelle Schnitzius, Secretary/Treasurer

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.